

Jasmine Forbes

From: Jasmine Forbes
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 3:14 PM
To: 'JWMedia'
Subject: RE: Crematorium Proposal - East Deer Park

Thank you for your correspondence related to Concept Site application SP-8415-2020. Your correspondence will be included in the Mayor and City Council meeting packet. If you wish to participate in the public hearing, please visit the City's virtual meeting page at <https://www.gaithersburgmd.gov/government/virtual-meeting-information>.

Regards,
Jasmine Forbes



Jasmine Forbes, Planner I
Planning and Code Administration

City of Gaithersburg | 31 South Summit Avenue | Gaithersburg, MD, 20877
Direct: 240-805-1069 | Main: 301-258-6330 | www.gaithersburgmd.gov
Jasmine.Forbes@gaithersburgmd.gov

From: JWMedia <jwmedia2016@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 7:25 PM
Subject: Crematorium Proposal - East Deer Park

This email is from an EXTERNAL source. Please use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

I understand there is a proposal is to build a crematorium on the Devol property by rezoning the residential house next to it. This is located at East Deer Park and Frederick Avenue.

I don't think it is appropriate to have this right in the middle of a residential neighborhood. If this place was on the outskirts, away from residential areas...then I'll be ok with it. I'm hoping this proposal is denied, mainly due to the location.

Thanks so much.

Jasmine Forbes

From: Jasmine Forbes
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 11:37 AM
To: 'Samad Saifudin'
Subject: RE: Opposition to Crematory on E. Deer Park and Frederick

Good Morning,

Thank you for your correspondence related to Concept Site application SP-8415-2020. Your correspondence will be included in the Mayor and City Council meeting packet.

Regards,
Jasmine Forbes



Jasmine Forbes, Planner I
Planning and Code Administration

City of Gaithersburg | 31 South Summit Avenue | Gaithersburg, MD, 20877
Direct: 240-805-1069 | Main: 301-258-6330 | www.gaithersburgmd.gov
Jasmine.Forbes@gaithersburgmd.gov

From: Samad Saifudin <ssaifudi@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 11:09 AM
To: Jasmine Forbes <Jasmine.Forbes@gaithersburgmd.gov>
Subject: Opposition to Crematory on E. Deer Park and Frederick

This email is from an EXTERNAL source. Please use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Good morning Ms. Forbes,

I'd like to offer a written statement opposing the funeral home on E. Deer Park and Frederick Ave being given a permit to convert a residential home to a "crematory parlor". This term itself does not make much sense, and the idea of a residential area having a crematory where bodies are incinerated and exhaust is disbursed is terrible. Gaithersburg City Council should vote this permit down and start incentivizing positive growth on 355.

Burning bodies can be done in an industrial zone. Please count this email as a vocal opposition. I plan to attend the hearing online on Monday the 3rd.

Thank you,

Samad Saifudin
301-710-2520
707 Cobbler Lane
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

Jasmine Forbes

From: Jasmine Forbes
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 12:09 PM
To: 'JD Paley'
Subject: RE: Addition of CREMATORIUM to DeVol Funeral Home

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for your correspondence related to Concept Site application SP-8415-2020. Your correspondence will be included in the Mayor and City Council meeting packet. If you wish to participate in the public hearing, please visit the City's virtual meeting page at <https://www.gaithersburgmd.gov/government/virtual-meeting-information>.

Regards,
Jasmine Forbes



Jasmine Forbes, Planner I
Planning and Code Administration

City of Gaithersburg | 31 South Summit Avenue | Gaithersburg, MD, 20877
Direct: 240-805-1069 | Main: 301-258-6330 | www.gaithersburgmd.gov
Jasmine.Forbes@gaithersburgmd.gov

From: JD Paley <George@jdpaley.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 11:36 AM
To: Planning External Mailing <Planning@gaithersburgmd.gov>
Subject: Addition of CREMATORIUM to DeVol Funeral Home

This email is from an EXTERNAL source. Please use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

No crematorium should be allowed in a residential or mixed-use area.
Such a facility clearly belongs in an industrial zone, away from homes or schools.

George JD Paley

Jasmine Forbes

From: Jasmine Forbes
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 12:40 PM
To: 'J. Jackson'
Cc: laurie-anne.sayles@gaithersburg.gov; neil.harris@gaithersburg.gov;
michael.sesma@gaithersburg.gov; ryan.spiegel@gaithersburg.gov;
robert.wu@gaithersburg.gov; Jud Ashman
Subject: RE: Crematoriums in Deer Park Community

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for your correspondence related to Concept Site application SP-8415-2020. Your correspondence will be included in the Mayor and City Council meeting packet. If you wish to participate in the public hearing, please visit the City's virtual meeting page at <https://www.gaithersburgmd.gov/government/virtual-meeting-information> .

Regards,
Jasmine Forbes

Jasmine Forbes, Planner I
Planning and Code Administration

City of Gaithersburg | 31 South Summit Avenue | Gaithersburg, MD, 20877
Direct: 240-805-1069 | Main: 301-258-6330 | www.gaithersburgmd.gov
Jasmine.Forbes@gaithersburgmd.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: J. Jackson <jestellj@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 12:29 PM
To: Planning External Mailing <Planning@gaithersburgmd.gov>
Cc: laurie-anne.sayles@gaithersburg.gov; neil.harris@gaithersburg.gov; michael.sesma@gaithersburg.gov;
ryan.spiegel@gaithersburg.gov; robert.wu@gaithersburg.gov; Jud Ashman <Jud.Ashman@gaithersburgmd.gov>
Subject: Crematoriums in Deer Park Community

This email is from an EXTERNAL source. Please use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

I can't believe that I am writing an email about preventing bodies from being burned in my Deer Park neighborhood.

The city obviously does not care about the well being of the East deer park community though we pay our taxes and work toward the benefit of this city everyday.

First the wawa and now burning bodies? This reeks of negligence, air pollution and planned destruction of property values. Who is the planning committee trying to protect? A funeral home or the constantly distressed residents.

I am so tired of fighting to not live in an industrial area. This is environmental racism at this best and we will not stand for it. I will be calling the Washington Post and news/social organizations about this latest racist assault by the City of

Gaithersburg. This absolutely shows how social and environmental justice issues are pushed to the side for monetary gain in East Deer Park.

Shame on you!

Best,
Jennifer Jackson

Jasmine Forbes

From: Jud Ashman
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 10:26 AM
To: Carol Johnson; Laurie-Anne Sayles; Neil Harris; Michael Sesma; Ryan Spiegel; Robert Wu; Jasmine Forbes
Cc: Dick and Pam Lindstrom; Jennifer Jackson
Subject: Re: SP 8415 2020 public record

Hi Carol,

Thanks for the submissions. We will add them to the record.

Yours,
- Jud

Jud Ashman
Mayor, Gaithersburg, MD
Founder & Chair, Gaithersburg Book Festival
www.gaithersburgbookfestival.org

From: Carol Johnson <carolsimsjohnson@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 9:52:36 AM
To: Jud Ashman; Laurie-Anne Sayles; Neil Harris; Michael Sesma; Ryan Spiegel; Robert Wu; Jasmine Forbes
Cc: Dick and Pam Lindstrom; Jennifer Jackson
Subject: SP 8415 2020 public record

This email is from an EXTERNAL source. Please use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Good Morning, please enter my comments into the public record.
thank you, Carol

B. Carol Johnson
405 Gaither Street
Gaithersburg, MD 20877
30 July 2020
carolsimsjohnson@gmail.com

Re: SP 8415 2020, 14 East Deer Park, Gaithersburg, Concept Site Plan Public Hearing

Dear Mayor, City Council and Planner,

I am writing to express my opposition to the conversion of the residence at 14 East Deer Park to a crematorium, that is, an on-site facility that burns human corpses at high temperatures so the ashes can be given to the survivors. I am not opposed to the conversion of the residence, which is owned by DeVol Enterprises, Inc. and lists as a residence on Zillow, to a funeral parlor type facility where cremations can be arranged. But this is would not be a new service for DeVol; in March 2005, when my husband Robert T. Johnson died, DeVol handled the cremation of his remains – his body was sent to Virginia for the cremation and his ashes returned to me via DeVol. They were kind and handled the paperwork etc. So I don't quite understand why they need to expand to the residence.

The property at 14 E Deer Park was recently rezoned CD. I would argue that a crematorium does not fall into the goals of the CD zone because it does not “create a more attractive and cohesive development pattern and to enhance the city's sense of place...” but in fact would add an industrial type facility that I would argue is within the scope of prohibited uses (Sec. 24-160G.2 (b) (4)) simply because of the industrial nature of the activity, presence of toxic fumes, industrial strength furnaces, and so forth.

As far as that tricky statement in the CD, Sec. 24-160G.2 (a) on permitted uses “All uses listed as permitted and not solely as special exceptions or conditional uses in all zoning districts unless otherwise prohibited except” I note that the City defines a funeral home as:

- Pursuant to the City Code, a funeral home is defined as:

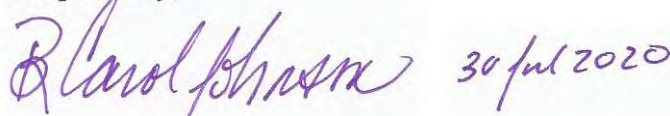
“Any building in which one or more parlors or rooms are maintained for the temporary resting place of dead human bodies pending final disposition thereof. Such building may also include the following: Space and facilities for the preparation of such bodies for burial or other final disposition; a chapel for the purpose of conducting religious or memorial services or ceremonies (and in which no emergency ambulance service is provided); rooms or space for administrative offices for conducting the business of the home; rooms or space for the housing of equipment, including motor vehicles; living quarters for not more than one family unit who are employees or owners of such funeral home or children of such employees or owners. Emergency ambulance service shall not be provided from the building”.

No where in this text is there the mention or description of carrying out “final disposition”, that is, burial or crematorium. Therefore, I don’t see how the City can accept the argument that “We are DeVol, a funeral home; We own the residence at 14 E Deer Park that is adjacent to our funeral home at 10 E Deer Park; so we are allowed to convert the residence so that we may cremate bodies on site”. The latter conclusion is NOT included in the City’s definition of a funeral home.

I would also argue that the property is adjacent to RB, R-90, and R-A zoned properties, as well as residential apartment buildings zoned CD. In proximity are Boher Park and two schools. The potential hazards to the children, residents, business owners, and the general public in the nearby apartment buildings and neighborhoods must be considered and carefully evaluated before continuing with this plan. With all due respect to the City expertise and the Applicant, I feel there should be an outside, independent, impartial assessment and review of any on site crematorium activities, with full public hearings, broad announcement to the community well in advance. There should be full opportunity for cross examination, and I formally make this request.

If the plan is to only offer cremation services and convert the residence to a funeral parlor, with expansion of the DeVol parking lot, then I strongly encourage the City to request that any new surface paving be pervious, to meet the City’s Rainscapes goals.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "B. Carol Johnson" followed by the date "30 Jul 2020". The signature is written in a cursive style.

B. Carol Johnson